

MEMORANDUM



Date : 17 November 2006

To : All Manning Agencies

From : Nonimmigrant Visa Unit – Seafarer Team

Subject : **Conflicting Information on Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF)/Form DS-156**

Seafaring Consular Officers have noticed that many seafaring applicants do not know what is on the Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF), also known as Form DS-156. An applicant will say one thing, but something different will be written on the EVAF/DS-156. This is a problem because it slows down the interview process while Consular Officers clarify conflicting information.

In **Section 30** and **Section 31**, applicants are required to list all previous U.S. visas, including visas that were denied. Many applicants do not list previous U.S. visas, especially those that were denied. In **Section 37**, a majority of applicants claim that they do not have relatives in the United States, which is not true. Having relatives in the United States does not in itself prevent applicants from qualifying for a U.S. visa. Lying about not having relatives in the United States may prevent applicants from qualifying. Therefore, it is always better to be honest. **Section 38** and **Section 41** must be completed by applicants, not manning agencies. When applicants sign their names, they take personal responsibility for the information on the EVAF/DS-156. Unfortunately, most applicants do not know what they have signed. In **Section 40**, second parties that have helped applicants fill out the form must sign their names. While this section is usually filled out, Consular Officers have noticed that the information on the EVAF/DS-156 is different from what applicants tell Consular Officers.

Please make sure that all seafarers understand that conflicting information will result in a 221(g) temporary refusal. This will not only cause scheduling problems for manning agencies, but will increase the wait time for applicants waiting to be interviewed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Seafarer Team
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